

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, December 21-25, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Russia Extended Food Import Ban Through End 2021 – [link](#)

On November 21, 2020, President Putin signed decree No. 730 extending Russia's ban on the import of agricultural products from the countries that applied economic sanctions against Russia, including the United States, until the end of 2021. The Government issued decree No. 2054 of December 9, 2020, implementing the decree of the President without any changes to the list of covered products. There was only a technical change to the list of covered countries, with the UK added to the list to reflect the Brexit reality. This report contains an unofficial English translation of both documents, as well as Russia's food import ban, listing the countries and products covered, as it currently stands.

Mexico Announces Changes to its Organic Products Import Procedures – [link](#)

Mexico has announced proposed changes to its organic import procedures under the "Agreement Establishing Goods whose Import and Export are Subject to Regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development" (the draft measure). This GAIN report includes the original Spanish-language copy of Mexico's draft measure submitted to the National Commission for Regulatory Improvement (CONAMER) and a non-official, courtesy English translation. Stakeholders should submit comments through CONAMER before Monday, December 28, 2020.

Impact of RCEP on US Agricultural Exports to China – [link](#)

On November 15, China joined 14 Asia-Pacific countries in signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. This is the first trade agreement between China and Japan. The implementation of the RCEP agreement is unlikely to change China's trade in agricultural products in the Asia-Pacific region and will have a minor impact on U.S. agricultural exports to China in the near future.

Indonesia - Wood Processing Industry Overview – [link](#)

Indonesia's abundant forests provide primary raw materials for its growing export-oriented wood processing industry. Valued at over \$12 billion in 2019, the sector's growth has slowed as a result of COVID-19, impacting local producers as well as overseas suppliers including the U.S., which is a key supplier of lumber, veneer, logs and plywood.

Food Processing Magazine

UK Food Imports Disrupted by COVID Virus Mutation - [link](#)

The United Kingdom is struggling with a disruption of shipments entering the country due to a new twist in the coronavirus situation – just ahead of the impending disruption of Brexit. A new, more contagious mutation of the coronavirus has emerged in the UK, prompting travel bans imposed from both within and outside the country. As a result, France, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands have stopped all incoming travel or traffic from the UK. This ban has the effect of interrupting food shipments,



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especially fresh food. The UK gets up to 85% of its produce from EU countries in the winter. While trucks are free to enter the UK, European shippers will be reluctant to send them unless they're sure the drivers can come back.